

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended): A method of feeding cattle feed to cattle consisting essentially of comprising adding at least 1 unit fibrolytic enzymes, having enzyme activity, to 1×10^5 Lactobacillus colony forming units to the feed without ensilage, after the addition the feed not being ensiled after the bacteria and enzymes are added, the feed being free of an obligate anaerobe and feeding the cattle.

2 (currently amended): A method of feeding cattle feed consisting essentially of comprising adding at least 2 units of fibrolytic enzymes having enzyme activity to 10^6 Lactobacillus colony forming units to the feed without ensilage[[,]] after the addition, and feeding the cattle a sufficient amount of one or more types of the fibrolytic enzymes and Lactobacillus, to produce, when fed to cattle, at least enough microbial protein in each head of cattle to be at least equivalent to one half pound (0.23 kg) of animal protein fed to each of the cattle per day, the feed being free of an obligate anaerobe.

3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further characterized by the Lactobacillus bacteria colony forming units being selected from the group comprising Lactobacillus acidophilus, Lactobacillus plantarum, and Lactobacillus brevis, and mixtures thereof.

4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further characterized by the fibrolytic enzymes being selected from the group comprising cellulases, xylanase, hemicellulase and mixtures thereof.

5 (currently amended): A method of feeding cattle consisting essentially of comprising adding at least 1 unit of fibrolytic enzymes to 1×10^5 CFU of Lactobacillus to the feed, feeding the cattle to produce, when fed to cattle, at least enough microbial protein in each head of cattle to be at least equivalent to one half pound (0.23 kg) of animal protein fed to each of the cattle per day, the feed not being ensiled after the bacteria and enzymes are added, the feed being free of an obligate anaerobe.

6 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further characterized by the Lactobacillus being selected from the group consisting essentially comprised of Lactobacillus acidophilus, Lactobacillus plantarum, and Lactobacillus brevis, and mixtures thereof.

7 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further characterized by the Lactobacillus being a mixture comprised of Lactobacillus acidophilus, Lactobacillus plantarum, and Lactobacillus brevis.

8 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further characterized by the one or more digesting enzymes being selected from the group consisting of comprising xylanase, and

cellulases derived from *Trichoderma viride*, *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus niger*, and *Bacillus subtilis*.

9 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further characterized by the one or more digesting enzymes being a mixture comprised of xylanase, and cellulases derived from *Trichoderma viride*, *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus Niger* and or *Bacillus subtilis*.

10 (withdrawn): A method of enhancing the conversion of cattle feed to microbial protein in the rumen of a head of cattle characterized by incorporating an additive containing a sufficient amount of a mixture of one or more species of lactobacillus bacteria and one or more types of digesting enzymes into the cattle feed to form at least a sufficient amount of microbial protein in the rumen of the head of cattle to be at least equivalent to one half pound (114 kg 0.23 kg) of animal protein fed to each of the cattle per day and feeding the cattle feed containing the additive to a head of cattle to form at least a sufficient amount of microbial protein in the rumen of the head of cattle to be at least equivalent to one half pound (0.23 kg) of animal protein fed to the head of cattle per day.

11 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10 further characterized by the lactobacillus bacteria being selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus Acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus Plantarum*, and *Lactobacillus Brevis*, and mixtures thereof and the amount of microbial protein formed to be at least equivalent to one half pound (0.23 kg) of animal protein fed to each of the cattle per day.

12 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10 further characterized by the lactobacillus bacteria being a mixture of *Lactobacillus Acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus Plantarum*, and *Lactobacillus Brevis*.

13 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10 further characterized by the one or more digesting enzymes being selected from the group consisting of xylanase, hemi-cellulase and cellulases derived from *Trichoderma viride*, *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus niger*, and *Bacillus subtilis*.

14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 10 further characterized by the one or more digesting enzymes being a mixture comprised of xylanase, and cellulases derived from *Trichoderma viride*, *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus Niger*, and *Bacillus subtilis*.

15 (withdrawn): A method for enhancing the production of microbial protein in the rumen of a head of cattle characterized by combining a sufficient amount of one or more strains of lactobacillus bacteria and one or more types of digesting enzymes having an enzyme activity of at least 10.^{sup.4} digestive units per oz (28.35 g) based upon the ingredients prior to combination into an additive, introducing the additive without ensiling into cattle feed, feeding the feed containing the additive without ensiling to the head of cattle, a daily ration of feed fed to each head of cattle containing a sufficient amount of one or more strains of lactobacillus bacteria and one or more types of digesting enzymes having an enzyme activity of at least 10.^{sup.4} digestive units per oz (28.35 g) to enhance the conversion of the cattle feed and the bacteria in the rumen to microbial protein.

16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15 further characterized by the enzymes being present at a level sufficient to produce an enzyme activity of from 10.^{sup.4} to 10.^{sup.8} units per gram of cattle feed and the lactobacillus bacteria being present at a level sufficient to increase the yield of microbial protein in the rumen.

17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15 further characterized by microbial protein being produced in the cattle by interaction of the bacteria and enzymes, the bacteria being added at a level of from 10.^{sup.6} to 10.^{sup.10} colony forming units per gram of cattle feed and enzymes being added at a level sufficient to produce a digestive enzyme activity of from 10.^{sup.6} to 10.^{sup.7} units per gram of cattle feed based upon the amount being added.

18 (withdrawn): A method of reducing runoff of water soluble nitrogen compounds from cattle manure characterized by incorporating a sufficient amount of a mixture of one or more species of *lactobacillus* bacteria and one or more types of digesting enzymes into an additive and combining the additive with cattle feed, and feeding the combination to cattle to form at least a sufficient amount of microbial protein to be at least equivalent to one fourth pound (0.11 kg) of animal protein fed to each of the cattle per day, the combination not being ensiled after incorporation of a sufficient amount of the mixture.

19 (currently amended): A method of improving the amino acid balance in the rumen characterized by combining a sufficient amount of an additive ~~consisting essentially of comprising~~ one or more strains of *lactobacillus* bacteria and one or more types of cellulose and/or hemi-cellulose digesting enzymes, adding the additive to cattle feed ~~without ensiling after the addition~~, feeding the cattle feed containing the additive to cattle to ~~convert the cellulose and/or hemi-cellulose and nitrogen in the cattle feed to increase~~ microbial protein in the rumen of cattle, the microbial protein having an improved amino acid balance over the amino acid balance of the microbial protein normally ~~occurring~~ occurring in the rumen, the cattle feed being free of a surfactant on a carrier, ~~the feed being free of an obligate anaerobe~~ and not being ensiled after the combination of the bacteria and enzymes.

20 (withdrawn): A method for enhancing the production of microbial protein in the rumen characterized by combining a feed additive containing a combination of fibrolytic enzymes having enzyme activity and one or more species of bacteria having colony forming units wherein the ratio of enzyme activity to colony forming units has a value, prior to combination of at least about 1 unit of digestive enzyme activity to every 10.^{sup.5} colony forming units, adding the additive to animal feed, and feeding the animal feed containing the additive to a ruminant, the additive not being ensiled after the combining the enzymes and the bacteria.

21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 20 further characterized by the feed additive containing a cellulose and/or a hemi-cellulose digesting enzyme, and the additive not being ensiled prior to being feed to a ruminant.

22 (currently amended): A method of making and using cattle feed characterized by adding to the cattle feed an additive, the additive containing a sufficient amount of one or more types of fibrolytic enzymes and *Lactobacillus*, to produce, when fed to cattle, at least enough microbial protein in each head of cattle to be at least equivalent to one half pound (0.23 kg) of animal protein fed to each of the cattle per day, assuming that each of the cattle are mature and of an average weight for cattle and feeding the cattle feed containing the additive to cattle, ~~the feed being free of an obligate anaerobe~~, the cattle feed containing the additive not being ensiled after the addition of the additive and prior to being fed to the cattle.